

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. ONGC is not aware of any such proposal.

(d) The details of net worth given below indicate consistent increase in the intrinsic value of the company:—

| Net worth (Rs. in crore) | | |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| 1422.66 | 2133.10 | 2395.33 |

The share price of MRPL has increased since its acquisition by ONGC. It was around Rs. 8/-before acquisition and presently it is around Rs. 40 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

(e) The average annual profit of Rs. 625 crores during the last two years (2004-05 and 2005-06) was higher than the profit of Rs. 459 crores during the year 2003-04. However there was a reduction in profit during 2005-06 compared to the previous year on account of various domestic and international factors including reduction in refining margins in line with global trends.

Blending of hydrogen with CNG

2973. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision for blending hydrogen with CNG to reduce Nitrogen Oxide, which will be less polluting and reduce emission from vehicles by about half;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when country's first hydrogen filling station will begin functioning in Delhi and what will be likely cost per kg. of such CNG blended hydrogen fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No decision has been taken in this regard by the Government at present. The matter is at experimental stage.

(b) The Research & Development Centre of Indian Oil has undertaken research work by blending Hydrogen with CNG on select vehicles. For this purpose, a Hydrogen-CNG mixing unit and dispensing station for the mixture has been commissioned at Faridabad. Presently, a few vehicles are being tested with upto 10% hydrogen in CNG. Further, R&D work has been planned jointly with vehicle manufacturers for carrying out necessary modifications in the engine for achieving the benefits in terms of NO_x reduction.

(c) A Hydrogen- and Hydrogen-CNG dispensing station for fueling the IOC R&D test vehicles has already been commissioned at R&D Centre of Indian Oil Corporation in Faridabad. This is the first station of the country which is already in operation. Another Hydrogen and Hydrogen-CNG Mixture dispensing station (at an existing retail outlet of IOC near Lodhi Road, New Delhi) is planned to be set up by Indian Oil Corporation as a part of demonstration project which is partly funded by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (50%) (MNRE) and partly from Hydrogen Corpus Fund (50%) created by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The implementation work for setting up this station is likely to commence during the current financial year and the station is expected to be set up by March, 2008. This station will be used for fueling the demonstration vehicles under various research projects of IOC as well as other agencies funded by MNRE. No decision has yet been taken with regard to commercial supply of such fuel and this decision will depend on the outcome of the research/demonstration projects. The cost of Hydrogen-CNG blend would also depend on the cost of Hydrogen production, cost of CNG and the ratio in which hydrogen and CNG are blended.

Re-opening of HPCL Depot in Kerala

2974. SHRI PR. RAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) opened a depot at Ponmana, Kollam, Kerala during the year 1994;

(b) if so, whether above depot had been closed during the year 1999;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;